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IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of starting-up a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks ~~in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network, an another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks,~~ the method comprising:

carrying out a request for ~~the~~ a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

~~receiving a response based on the request;~~

determining from ~~the~~ a response based on the request that another router is absent in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

stopping a routing function based on said determining.

19. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-network identification code.

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20. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

21. (Currently Amended) A router connected to a plurality of the sub-networks ~~in a home bus system having a router, a sub-network, and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks,~~ the router comprising:

a ~~transmitting~~ means for carrying out a request for the a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

~~a means for receiving a response based on the request;~~

a ~~means~~ for determining from the ~~received~~ a response that an another router is absent in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

a ~~means~~ for stopping a routing function based on information provided by said means for determining.

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22. (Currently Amended) The router according to Claim 21, further comprising:

       a — means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code; and

the transmitting means ~~is~~ for carrying out the request by using the provisional sub-network identification code.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for starting a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks ~~in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks,~~ the method comprising:

carrying out a request for the a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

~~receiving a response providing the sub-network identification code based on the request; determining that a response, based on the request, is absent from each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and~~

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~~stopping a routing function when the response is absent from each of the sub-networks connected to the router based on~~  
said determining.

24. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-network identification code.

25. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

26. (Currently Amended) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks ~~in a home bus system comprising a router, a sub-network, and another router including a parent router for assigning a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks,~~ the router comprising:

~~a transmitting means for carrying out a request for the~~  
sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

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~~— a means for receiving a response based on the request; and~~  
a means for stopping a routing function when the response  
of the sub-network identification code is absent from in each of  
the sub-networks connected to the router.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~router~~ method according to  
Claim 26, wherein: further comprising:

~~the router further comprises a means for storing a~~  
provisional sub-network identification code; and

the transmitting means for carrying out the request by  
using the provisional sub-network identification code.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for starting a router  
connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

carrying out a request for a sub-network identification  
code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the  
router;

~~— receiving a response based on the request;~~

determining from the response that another router is  
present in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

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stopping a routing function based on the response.

29. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said carrying out the request comprises using a provisional sub-network identification code.

30. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the provisional network identification code comprises a value of 0x00.

31. (Currently Amended) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

a-transmitting means for carrying out a request for a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router;

~~a means for receiving a response based on the request;~~

a-means for determining from the received response that another router is present in each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

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a—means for stopping a routing function based on information provided by said means for determining.

32. (Currently Amended) The router according to Claim 31, further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

       a—means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code; and

       the transmitting means for carrying out the request by using the provisional sub-network identification code.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

carrying out a request for a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router by using a provisional sub-network identification code;

receiving a response based on the request, the response comprising the sub-network identification code from each of the sub-networks connected to the router; and

stopping a routing function based on said response.

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34. (Currently Amended) A router connected to a plurality of sub-networks, comprising:

a—means for storing a provisional sub-network identification code;

a—means for requesting a sub-network identification code that identifies each of the sub-networks connected to the router by using the provisional sub-network identification code;

a—means for receiving the sub-network identification code as a response based on a request of the requesting means;

a—communication processing means for transmitting and receiving data among the sub-networks; and

a—means for stopping the communication processing means when the requesting means receives the sub-network identification code from each of the sub-networks connected to the router.